Success of Chandrayaan-I

1628. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether International scientist community including NASA, have confirmed the success of Chandrayaan-I space mission;

(b) if so, the Indian scientists' study report about the success of Chandrayaan-I; and

(c) the further space plans that are contemplated in the light of success of Chandrayaan-I?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The results of the study and detailed analysis of variety of data collected through the different scientific instruments carried by the Chandrayaan-I spacecraft are being studied by scientists from India and abroad. The findings are being revealed by them in different scientific forums and through publications.

(c) In the light of the success of Chandrayaan-I, Chandrayaan-II mission is planned for launch during 2012-13.

Second moon mission

1629. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner the successes of Chandrayan-I builds up interest in the second ISRO's Moon Mission in 2013;

(b) whether the Chandrayan-II plans to probe deep into the lunar surface than Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3);

(c) whether there is any possibility to drill the lunar surface so as to collect samples for analysis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The success of Chandrayaan-I has been mainly in terms of:

- building the spacecraft with multiple sensor systems;
- launching the spacecraft with India's own Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and precisely inserting the same into the lunar orbit in the first attempt itself;
- imaging up to 95% of the lunar surface at high-resolution;
- broad assessment of the mineralogical composition of certain parts of the lunar surface;
- finding hydroxyl and water molecules on the lunar surface;